



New Straitsville History Group
PO Box 534
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OHRAB Interim Report
August, 2017

Project Summary

The New Straitsville History Group holds over 150 panoramic and large format photographs, documents and coal mining maps. The photographs record aspects of town life such as the town school and church. The maps and other documents record towns and area mines, including one owned by an important local family, the Kachlemachers. This fragile and unique record set has not been digitized or preserved and are not currently available to the public. The Group lacks the financial means to purchase the necessary equipment and supplies. The purpose of this project is to digitize and then preserve this large format record set to allow for its use in the museum, webpage, and educational activities.

Estimated percentage of project completed and number of images scanned or collections or cubic feet processed, etc.

1. The collection has been completely inventoried. Unfortunately, the original inventory was incomplete. It was discovered that the collection is significantly larger than previously thought. There are closer to 250 total items to be digitized in 6 map case drawers. It was discovered that the accessioning was also incomplete.

2. A spreadsheet inventory has been constructed with a system for tracking each item through photography, photoshop editing and preservation.

3. The items in 1 drawer have been photographed as well as 15 of the panoramic photographs. As each item is photographed, it is measured, tagged and the accessioning checked. If necessary, the item is accessioned.

Summary of expenses (have all of the supplies been ordered and arrived, has the software been ordered, etc.).

1. The intern for the project has been hired. It took a bit of time to figure out payroll but that was accomplished. The intern began near the end of the summer and will continue into fall.

2. All equipment has been ordered and is expected to arrive by the middle of September.

3. A photography table with a large top on it was built to accommodate photography of the large maps.

Amount of staff and volunteer time spent on the project (include both grant funded time and matching time)

Volunteer time: 25 hours.

Intern time: 12 hours.

Is the project on track to be completed by December 31st? If not, what are the delays and what is the estimated end date?

There have been some obstacles to the timeline for this project. Initially, it took some time to figure out the payroll for the intern. The History Group did not have a debit card, so ordering the supplies has taken longer. When we re-inventoried the map case containing the collection, it was found that there were significantly more items than in the original inventory and some items had not been accessioned. Finally, the facilities manager had been constructing a needed photography table to accommodate the large maps and this process took longer than expected. We will need an extension. I can only estimate the project may be completed by March, 2018.

Has there been any publicity on the project so far? If so please include examples. Also, has there been any increased interest in the collections from researchers?

The project has been posted on the History Group's Facebook page. The post consisted of several sentences describing the grant and its purpose. The exact text was as follows: "The History Group is proud and excited to announce that we were awarded a grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board to preserve the maps and documents in the Kachlemacher collection as well as the History Group's large collection of panoramic photographs. We will begin this project this summer after completing a couple of other projects, including one for the Wayne National Forest. Anyone interested in helping out with any of our ongoing project, please contact us here or via email at nshg1870@gmail.com."